

GAME BIRDS

FEEDING and MANAGEMENT



**Three full years' experimentation and re-
search prove Wirthmore Poultry Mash
and Grains Raise Game Birds Efficiently
and Economically**

GAME BIRDS

FEEDING AND MANAGEMENT

**A Treatise on the Raising of
Game Birds Efficiently
and Economically**



By

ED LAWRENCE

Proprietor Staples & Lawrence Game Farm
Hollis, New Hampshire



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Ed Lawrence with Cock Pheasant

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AN APPRECIATION

The publishers gratefully acknowledge the valuable service to them and to game bird raisers rendered by Mr. Edward Lawrence, proprietor of the S. & L. Game Farm, Hollis, New Hampshire, who has so generously given of his time during these three years and made it possible for other game bird raisers to have the benefit of his experience and findings.

Mr. Lawrence is one of the foremost of the few outstanding commercially successful game bird breeders in New England and is so acknowledged.

The publishers are glad to present this booklet, feeling confident it will be of real service and help to the game fancier and breeder.

A MESSAGE TO GAME BREEDERS

LARGE OR SMALL

With advancing civilization and its ever-increasing population claiming more and more of our forest areas, all wild life and particularly game birds are deprived of the natural surroundings which give them the chance to live and propagate.

State Forest and Game Departments have done much to preserve and propagate the different species of game birds.

Commercial Game Bird Breeders, County Rod and Gun Clubs, Sportsmen's Clubs, as well as individual fanciers, have found pleasure, recreation and much satisfaction in breeding and raising game birds.

Because of the lack of previous available experience in habit, breeding and growing requirements, the work has been hazardous and often resulted in excessive costs. A few commercial breeders through careful study and thorough management have had outstanding successes.

Birds can be purchased from commercial raisers with reliable advice and information as to requirements for brooding, housing, confined range, and brush shelters with coverlets. We present herewith feeding directions and reliable advice on care and management which are the results of a most exhaustive test.

If the beginner will obtain pedigreed stock of proved vitality, and follow these directions for feeding and management, he may be confident of success, and with these methods the present breeders may do much to prevent many unnecessary losses and to increase their profits.

The illustrations and text matter in this booklet tell a comprehensive story of feeding and management methods which have proved to be successful.

GAME BIRDS

FEEDING AND MANAGEMENT

By Ed Lawrence

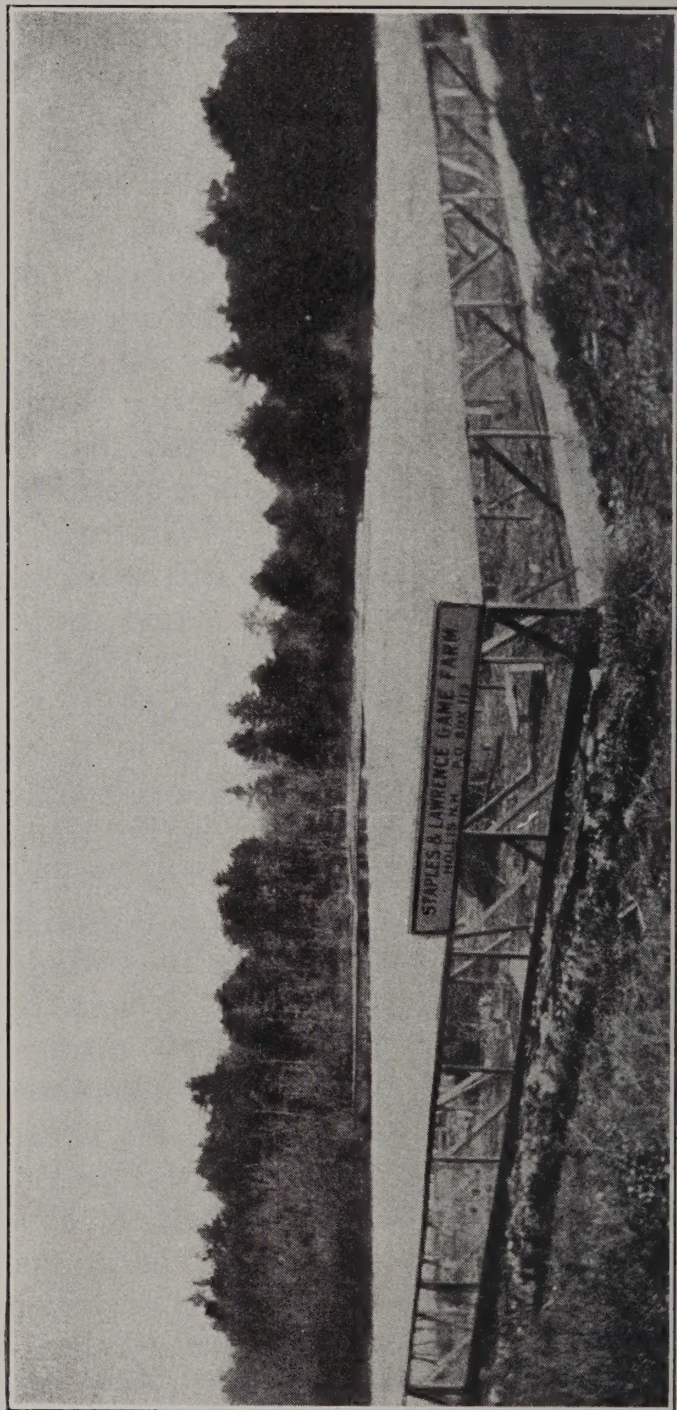
Proprietor S. & L. Game Farm, Hollis, N. H.

For **three full years** it has been my privilege to subject **Wirthmore Feeds** to one of the most savage tests imaginable.

To meet my requirements as a commercial breeder of Game Birds, **Wirthmore Poultry Mash**es and **Scratch Grains** had to give satisfactory percentages on a quantity-production basis — and — **Wirthmore Mash**es and **Scratch Grains** did so!

As a breeding specialist in Game Birds, quantity-production became overshadowed in my desires for more efficient Game Birds; a stronger poult; less percentage in poult losses; strong, vigorous birds for breeding purposes; flocks of breeding birds that must give consistent performances of high fertility averages; birds that would be more prolific egg layers, and prove a vitality that would produce strong, vigorous chicks in spite of big egg-yield and high fertility ratings. **Wirthmore Feeds** had to prove themselves to meet these ambitions. And — for **three straight years**, the **Wirthmore Poultry Mash**es and **Scratch Grains** have consistently met these most exacting conditions.

Records of the 1931 season will show you the gratifying results obtained with **Wirthmore Feeds** applied to **Game Birds**.



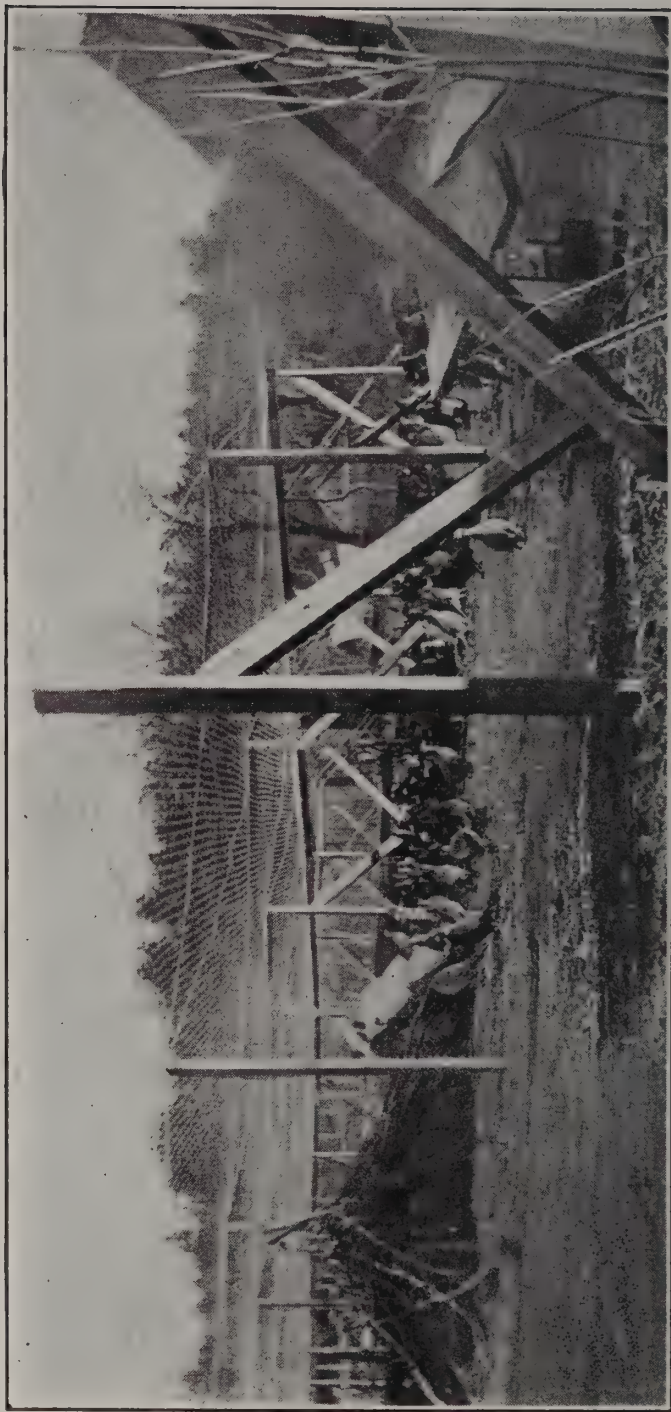
135,000 surface feet, Flying Yards
Containing 2,370 young stock under Wirthmore Feed Proving Test

Displaying special-bred pheasants of all kinds, also bobwhite quail, every year at the Boston National Sportsmen's Show, thousands of friends and customers eventually ask the all-important question: "What do you feed?" The invariable answer is: "**Wirthmore Feeds exclusively.**"

For **three full years**, the St. Albans Grain Company, manufacturers of **Wirthmore Feeds**, have officially known of this exacting test of their products. Their request was for an **unbiased and full-proved** course of feeding and Game Bird management. Experiments under daily conditions of commercial game farming were strictly observed without interference or prejudice, so as to **assure and prove conclusively** that **Wirthmore Poultry Mash**es and **Scratch Grains** will give the utmost in satisfactory results in **Game Bird raising** under **all conditions**.

This full three years' test of **Wirthmore Feeds** indicates the sincerity and honesty of purpose of the manufacturers and is also ample proof that they **positively know** **Wirthmore Feeds** will successfully raise **Game Birds**.

Scientifically constructed to give the utmost in mineral balance and vitamin content, **Wirthmore** insures rapid, sturdy growth in Game Bird flocks. That alert, eager-to-go restlessness of the pheasant or quail, evident



Ring-necked Pheasants — 2,370 bred in one lot on Wirthmore Feed Proving Test
Notice brush piles and breakers for shelter

when a well-balanced ration is promoting their well-being, is **ever present in Wirthmore-fed Game Birds.**

The use of **Wirthmore Poultry Mash**es and **Scratch Grains** is recommended unqualifiedly to the back-lot fancier, to the gun-club members "wintering-over" birds, and to the commercial Game-Bird breeder who **must** obtain maximum results to insure his prosperity.

Consider carefully these 1931 records of **Wirthmore-fed Game Birds** at the S. & L. Game Farm, in Hollis, N. H. The significance of these exceptional results will impress you with the importance of starting your large or small attempt at **Game-Bird raising** with **Wirthmore time-tested Feeds.**

1931 RING-NECKED PHEASANT RECORDS

Over 90 Eggs Per Hen Average!

91% fertile!

89.3% livable chicks!

19% loss from day-old to maturity!

Ring-necked cockerels on **Wirthmore All-Purpose Broiler Ration**, 16 weeks of age, average $3\frac{1}{8}$ pounds each on 150-bird "weighing-in" test!

Give your **Game Birds** the advantages of **Wirthmore Mash**es and **Scratch Grains** — observe strict sanitation, and **you** can successfully raise Game Birds.



Flock of real healthy Ring-necks

FEEDING SCHEDULE

Pheasants of All Kinds and Bobwhite Quail

The feeding schedules are offered from the **full three years' test of Wirthmore Mash**es and **Scratch Grains**.

1st Day: Keep in incubator or confined to bantam or hen. No water or feed. Keep in semi-darkness.

2nd to 7th Day: Shallow water containers with chill taken off water. Handfuls of fine hard grit on paper plates. Agitate grit by allowing it to flow slowly from hand to plate. This attracts chicks' attention so that a majority are assured of a grit feeding. Remove grit plates in the course of an hour, or when satisfied the first feed has been accomplished. Refill plates with the following: Mix crumbly wet **Wirthmore Baby Chick Starter** with skim milk or water. If skim milk is used, be sure of its availability for first seven days' feedings. **Do not** have mix **sloppy**, moisten to the **crumbly wet** stage **only**. Feed on plates, thirty-minute feedings, six times daily at equal intervals. Agitate this mixture same as grit feeding. The smartest chicks learning of the food value of the feed will quickly teach the balance of the brood to eat.



**Silver Pheasants
Wirthmore-Fed Birds**



**Melanistic Mutant Pheasants
Wirthmore-Fed Stock**

Repeat these feedings daily, carefully mixed and on time.

2nd Week: Keep Wirthmore Baby Chick Starter, Dry, constantly before the birds in shallow feeders or hoppers. Also during the morning, noon and late afternoon feed a **crumbly wet** mixture on plates. Place plates close to feeders containing the **Dry Wirthmore Baby Chick Starter**. It will teach them the significance of the **Chick Starter containers**. Keep water fresh at all times. Serve several earthenware or porcelain containers of sour milk curd (clabber). Use **NO fresh milk in any form once the sour clabber is added to diet**. Do not remove all water containers, so chicks will retain some desire for water. This insures no harmful results should clabber supply fail for a few hours at any time.

3rd to 6th Week: Keep Wirthmore Baby Chick Starter, plentifully supplied, constantly before birds in sanitary feeders or hoppers.

3rd Week: Sprinkle Wirthmore Intermediate Scratch Grains over Chick Starter in the containers night and morning.

4th, 5th and 6th Weeks: A pint of Wirthmore Intermediate Scratch Grains for every 100 chicks. Observe your pheasant chicks carefully at this stage, and if they



Bobwhite Quail

have taken readily to the **Scratch Grains**, scatter it in the sand for them to work for. Increase or reduce quantity for a complete “pick-up” of grains within a two-hour feeding period.

Coarse sand two to three inches deep on brooder-house floors, or pens when bantam or hen hatched, is highly desirable in preference to any other forms of litter. Rake and turn over sand thoroughly night and morning. Ground (use fine side of food chopper) fresh lettuce, clover, alfalfa leaf, or sprouted oats, one feed daily at noon on plates, remove in one hour. Positively **no cabbage**. Keep **Wirthmore Baby Chick Starter**, plen-

tifully supplied, constantly before the birds in hoppers.

6th to 14th Week: Same procedure as for 3rd to 6th week, except introduction of **Wirthmore Growing Mash**, containing Cod Liver Oil. Take one part of **Wirthmore Growing Mash** and three parts **Wirthmore Baby Chick Starter**, mix them thoroughly and replace in all the **Chick Starter** hoppers. Feed for a five-day period, then decrease one part more of **Chick Starter**, replacing it with **Wirthmore Growing Mash**, so that in four five-day periods mash mixture has graduated to **Growing Mash** entirely. Patiently accomplish this gradual change to **Wirthmore Growing Mash** as it is highly important in not throwing your birds “**off-balance**” in their diet requirements.

Added delicacies in reasonable quantities can now be supplied, such as: boiled potatoes, hand crushed; ears of fresh sweet corn, split kernels with knife for easy picking; well-ripened tomatoes, crushed; overripe bananas; and well-ripened cantaloupe melon. Suspend in odd places about the run-yards, heads of lettuce about bird-head-high from the ground; pieces of suet (not cod fat) in same way. This added food induces interest and exercise which is also very beneficial to



**New England-Reared Bobwhite Quail
Wirthmore-Fed Stock**

the birds. Observation of increase in quantity of **Wirthmore Intermediate Scratch Grains** will determine more exactly the necessary quantity rather than measured amounts; i.e., what your birds will clean up in thirty to forty minutes, when **Scratch Grains** are scattered freely in run-yards. Keep containers **plentifully supplied** with **Wirthmore Growing Mash** constantly before the birds. Have plenty of the **Mash** feeders or hoppers placed in advantageous places about run-yards.

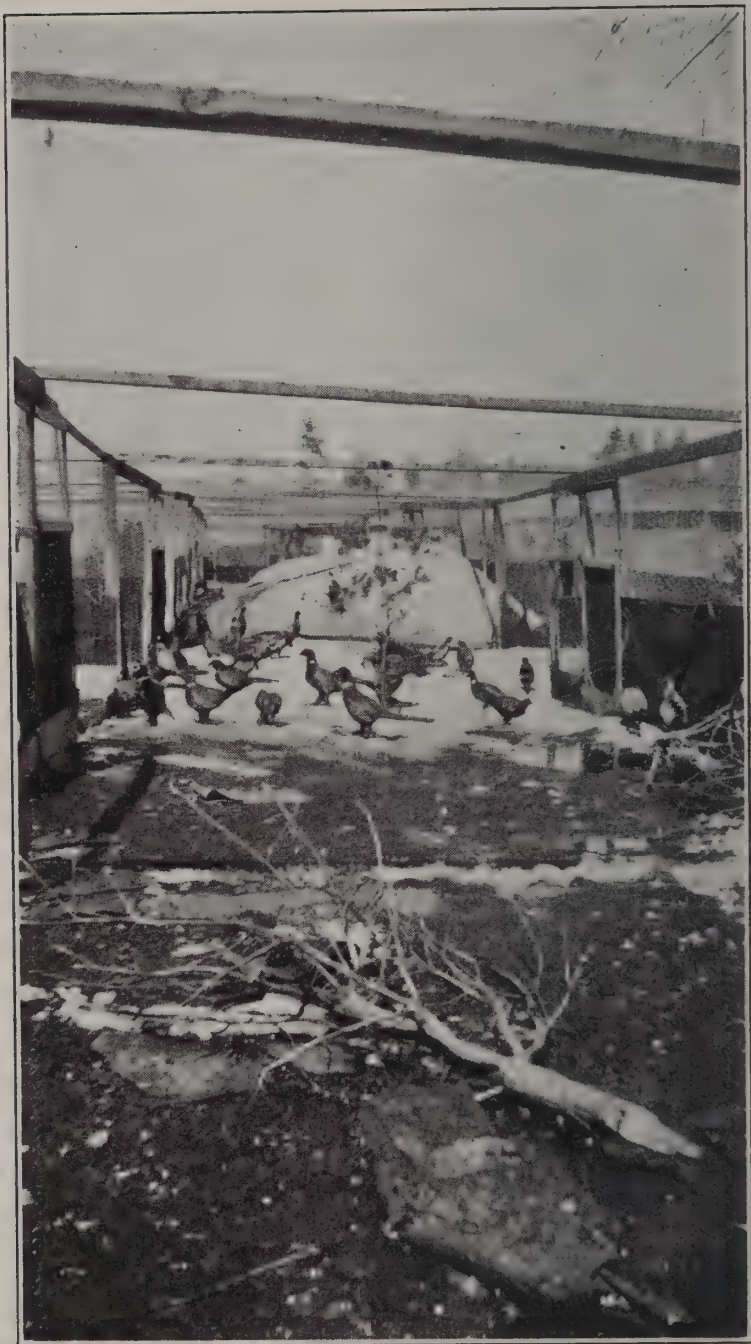
14th Week to Maturity: Follow general procedures as in previous weeks. Graduate the feedings from **Wirthmore Growing**

Mash to Wirthmore Laying Mash containing Cod Liver Oil, in as careful graduations as in previous four five-day periods. The same "added delicacies" apply. Use **Wirthmore Scratch Grains** exclusively with this **Laying Mash** ration. Keep feeders or hoppers **plentifully supplied** with **Wirthmore Laying Mash** constantly before birds.

We cannot overemphasize the importance of having **plenty of Mash containers**, and keeping supplied at all times with feed. It prevents overcrowding at feeders; the more timid birds will have equal chance for a **full-day ration**; **all birds** are then assured of a normal, steady growth.

FOR THE COMMERCIAL GAME BREEDER

Cull out as many young pheasant cockerels as desired for **meat-marketing** purposes, giving them a limited length of run-yard. It is to advantage to cull between sixth and seventh weeks. Feed these young pheasant cockerels **Wirthmore All-Purpose Chick and Broiler Ration**. This **Broiler Ration** furnishes a complete diet. **No other feed or grain necessary**; use water and clabber or both. Any of the so-called "added delicacies" can be given without interference in growth or "fleshing-up" of birds. At sixteen weeks of age, your pheasant cockerels, with normal cleanliness, will have reached the satisfying and remarkable weight of 3 pounds or more.



Small Section of Confined Range

FOR BREEDING BIRDS AT EGG-LAYING SEASON

Pheasants

Keep **Wirthmore Laying Mash**, containing Cod Liver Oil, constantly before the birds. Mix 5 pounds oyster shells (crushed **fine**) with every 100 pounds **Wirthmore Laying Mash**. Keep loose oyster shells, ordinary size, close to **Laying Mash** container. Evening and morning a feeding of **Wirthmore Scratch Grains**, thirty-minute pick-up. Green feed daily, but very sparingly. When egg-laying period is over, put breeding birds immediately on eight weeks' diet of **Wirthmore Growing Mash**. This change reconditions birds after strain of egg-laying season, assures safe moult and brilliancy of new feather coat.

For Bobwhite Quail Breeding Birds

Use same procedure as for pheasants except: Two green feedings daily. Mix 5 pounds oyster shell (**fine**) and 10 pounds coarse-fine sand to every 100 pounds **Wirthmore Laying Mash**. Use **Wirthmore Intermediate Scratch Grains** at all times, nothing coarser, as quail's crop is very small. After egg-laying season is over, eliminate oyster shell in mixture, making mix $7\frac{1}{2}$ pounds coarse-fine sand to every 100 pounds **Wirthmore Laying Mash**. No reversion to **Growing Mash** required.



**Wirthmore-Fed Ring-neck Hen Pheasants
A Corner of the Run Yard**

GOOD RULES TO FOLLOW

1. Observe **Cleanliness** with plates, feeders, hoppers, water and clabber containers.

2. Observe **strict adherence** to the feeding schedules given herein, keeping all the **Mash** containers **plentifully supplied** with feed at **all times**.

3. Remove promptly any bird whose looks inform you it is not up to normal in all respects. This insures against possible infections. And —

4. **Wirthmore Poultry Mash**es and **Scratch Grains** will do the rest.

Note: Always purchase the **Wirthmore Mash**es containing Cod Liver Oil; the bags are plainly marked. The oil is thoroughly blended into the mash,es, which insures each bird's obtaining the necessary amount of vitamin D.

The small flock breeder can obtain these feeds in any quantity desired. The most economical way to purchase these feeds is in hundred-pound bags.

Insist on getting **Wirthmore Feeds** — they are sold by a **Wirthmore** grain dealer in nearly every town in New England. Easy to obtain. If you have any difficulty whatever, write to **Wirthmore Poultry Service Department**, St. Albans, Vermont, or to **Chas. M. Cox Co.**, 177 Milk Street, Boston, Mass.

If we can be of service to you in Game Bird breeding, write us.

WIRTHMORE POULTRY FEEDS

“Better Than Ever”

Wirthmore Baby Chick Starter with Cod Liver Oil

Wirthmore All-Purpose Chick and Broiler Ration with Cod Liver Oil

Wirthmore Baby Chick Scratch Feed

Wirthmore Growing Mash (with and without Cod Liver Oil)

Wirthmore Intermediate Scratch Feed

Wirthmore Laying Mash (with and without Cod Liver Oil)

Wirthmore Breeder Mash with Cod Liver Oil

Wirthmore Scratch Feed

Wirthmore Turkey Starter with Cod Liver Oil

Wirthmore Turkey Growing Mash with Cod Liver Oil

Wirthmore Duck Baby Chick Starter

Wirthmore Duck Growing Feed

Wirthmore Duck Laying Mash

Wirthmore Duck Breeder Mash

Also a complete line of Live-Stock Feeds

WIRTHMORE FEEDS

WHOLESALE DISTRIBUTORS

ST. ALBANS GRAIN CO.
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Established 1886